

The Former Kaiser Publishes His Own Outline of History

Diary of Events Leading Up to World War Is Calculated to Prove That Germany Did Not Start the Conflict

In one of the articles that have been appearing in *The Tribune* Frank A. Vanderlip describes the conviction in Germany that she was not the aggressor in the Great War. He describes what an American educator who had investigated the teachings in the German schools had told him—"That the oncoming generation of Germans were being raised to unquestioned belief that Germany had fought a defensive war. It seemed to me the rankest sort of propaganda, on which the foundations of future war were being solidly laid."

One of these propaganda documents now circulating in Germany is the collection of historical tables assembled by the former Kaiser in an effort to shift the onus to Germany's opponents. The following article indicates the nature of the defense and points out its many flaws.

By Jonas Lippmann

MORE than 7,000 letters and telegrams were sent to the former Kaiser on the occasion of his sixty-third birthday. People in all walks of life living in what was once upon a time called the German Empire took this opportunity to show their loyalty to their former ruler.

The junker star is rising in Germany. Even the present German government is caught flitting with the followers of Hohenzollern. The fact that President Ebert honored with his presence a banquet where the powers of the Entente were handled without gloves, confirms the apprehension that the republican form of government is slightly tainted with Prussianism. Among those present were Prince Eitel, General Ludendorff, Marshal Van Mackensen and Admiral Tirpitz, all in full uniform.

A few weeks before, at a convention of the Lutheran pastors of Prussia, a new prayer was introduced in the legal liturgy—a prayer appealing to God "to defend our beloved Kaiser who is far away."

Another manifestation which deserves more than passing notice was the theatrical outburst of allegiance to Kaiserdom staged by the well-known Professors at the Hohenzollern Lyceum. The principal, in his address to the students, characterized William II as "our exalted monarch," spoke of "preparation necessary for the war which will have to be waged against France," and concluded: "We will stand by our Kaiser with unshakable loyalty." The Democratic and Socialist press condemned with indignation the sentiments expressed at that gathering. Nevertheless, such oratory reflects the sentiments of what is known as the better classes.

To these recent German events may be added the "escape" from jail of First Lieutenant Ludwig Dittmer, the submarine officer sentenced to a term of four years in jail by the Supreme Court of Leipzig. The crime the lieutenant committed was the sinking of a British hospital ship. His confederate, Lieutenant Boldt, was also sentenced for the same crime, but "escaped" a few months ago from the prison at Hamburg.

Of course, investigations have been ordered by the Minister of Justice, who expressed the opinion that both criminals had accomplices not only on the outside but among their jailers. Whatever the investigations bring forth, the fact remains that renewed hopes to avoid the execution of the terms of the Versailles Treaty have lately been injected in the German heart.

Kaiser Compiles List of International Events

Who or what is the mysterious power which recently has awakened the German nation? What is it that encourages the German people to-day to see the star of hope again shining in the too far distant horizon?

To answer those questions it is necessary to refer to the exchange of letters between the former Kaiser and his trusted lieutenant, Von Hindenburg. These letters, dated April 1, 1921, have just been made public. Why?

In Von Hindenburg's letter dated March 30, 1921, occurs the following sentence: "The comparative historical tables assembled by your majesty, and which your majesty has permitted me to see, form a valuable contribution to the history and origin of the war, and are calculated to dispose of many incorrect conceptions."

In his answer to Von Hindenburg's letter, the ex-Kaiser, under date of April 5, 1921, writes:

"The motive by which I was guided in assembling these historical tables was to enable the reader to form his own judgment on the historical events leading up to the war—this by making a systematic enumeration of the sober facts and dealing with strictly historical material."

What are these "historical tables"? They are a diary of leading international events from 1878, when William was Kronprinz, to August 4, 1921, annotated without comment by the ex-Kaiser.

The nations mentioned are those composing the Triple Alliance—Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy; then the Entente Powers—England, France, Russia; then the Balkan States; then Turkey, America and Japan. Each power has a column in which are recorded the facts especially interesting that power.

To the "historical table" is annexed an index giving for each annotation the corresponding source from which the ex-Kaiser derived his information.

Some of the events thus noted by the Kaiser are contrary to facts; others are unimportant and shed no new light on what is already known. However, the 265 remarks, which constitute the "Historical Tables" are not only a clumsy justification of Germany's attitude but constitute an indictment of the Entente Powers and of America.

Contrasts in Germany—Junker Stars and the Symbol of Defeat



The large photograph was taken at the funeral of the ex-Kaiser in Potsdam, which became, in effect, a reunion of the old military caste, with all the pomp of the days when "Der Tag" was toasted. In front, on the left, is General von Hindenburg; on the right, General von Ludendorff, and, just behind, Admiral von Tirpitz. Below is a German war tank in process of destruction in accordance with the terms of the treaty.

reached by Japan and America on the question of immigration.

In March, 1911, the ex-Kaiser is really disturbed, not so much by the visit of the American fleet to England as by a speech made by Admiral Sims in the Guildhall at London.

"March 14, 1911, Admiral Sims, speaking: 'America will prove her friendship for England to the last dollar and the last drop of blood.'"

"Furthermore, in private conversation the admiral says that it is the consensus of opinion among officers of the British navy and British army that the war could be delayed no more than four years and that he is absolutely of the same opinion."

Kaiser Shows Eagerness To Prove Own Innocence

No detail is neglected by the Kaiser to impress the readers of the diary that the responsibility for the war does not rest with him. In his closing note, interesting particularly to America, the Kaiser refers to Senator Francis as follows:

"An article by the American Senator Philippe Francis, addressed to 'The Milwaukee Herald' and published on April 8, 1921, mentions the fact that the Kronprinz of Serbia while in London stated, being intoxicated, that he knew of an attempt to assassinate Kronprinz Franz Ferdinand and that the plan would be executed at the coming visit of the Kronprinz to Bosnia. The drunken Serbian prince was in London in March, 1914, three months before the Kronprinz Franz Ferdinand was assassinated."

An elaborate attempt to prove that the war was not his doing is made by the ex-Kaiser in discussing the international relations of France and England.

In 1887, fifteen years after the Franco-Prussian War, an incident occurred which the ex-Kaiser noted as follows:

"April, 1887—Schnaebelle noted: Preparations of war by France against Germany."

A few words of explanation are necessary. A French police official named Schnaebelle, stationed on the extreme border of Alsace, on the French side, received a letter from his German colleague stationed on the German side inviting him to a conference. There was nothing unusual in this request, as the two officials had to confer very often on police matters. Schnaebelle complied with the request. As soon as he crossed the border line he was attacked by two men hidden in a wheat field, handcuffed and taken before Gautsch, the German official. He was charged with being a spy and taken to Metz, where he was locked up.

Schnaebelle's protests against such treachery were of no avail. "We made up our minds long ago to get you," said the chief of police, "and we have got you."

A lengthy interchange of telegraphic notes between Paris and Berlin, supplemented by an appeal of France to Russia, did not sufficiently influence the German government. Bismarck, cabled to the Foreign Office at St. Petersburg asking if Russia would remain neutral in case of war between France and Germany. The Russian Foreign Office took the stand that, according to the evidence, Schnaebelle had been lured on German territory by a false request, and under the circumstances no promise of neutrality on the part of Russia could be made.

While these negotiations were going on the Minister of War for France, General Boulanger, made a hurried trip to the border and gave his instructions to the General Staff for general mobilization. Bismarck realized that France meant business, and Schnaebelle was released. War was avoided—not through Germany's will, but because of the attitude of Russia. This incident was the foundation of the future Franco-Russian alliance.

Why the ex-Kaiser should make mention of this affair in his diary passes comprehension, as all the facts in the case proved that war was the ultimate object of Schnaebelle's arrest.

Concerning the Franco-Russian alliance, a visit of the French fleet to Russia is noted by the ex-Kaiser:

"23 July, 1891—As for the visit of the French fleet to Cronstadt and the Franco-Russian brotherly demonstration which followed, the Belgian Minister at Berlin reports: 'The union between France and Russia rests only on a common hatred of Germany. This union can therefore have but an aggressive character.'"

Here again we have the ex-Kaiser relying on the reports of a Belgian diplomat. He mentions in a line or so the famous Dreyfus affair, which rocked France to the bottom, and merely adds that the Dreyfus case was creating strong anti-German feeling.

The ex-Kaiser stretches the truth. There were no anti-German manifestations at the time the Dreyfus affair broke out, but there was a strong anti-Jewish feeling. The fact that the alleged spy was a native of Alsace and a Jew caused considerable stir. The entire tragedy was the culmination of an anti-Semitic campaign engineered by Edouard Drummond, chief editor of the "Libre Parole," assisted by a man well known in America, the Marquis de Moers.

Under the heading "France," the Kaiser notes a news item culled from the magazine "Deutsche Revue" (1908):

"January, 1906—Declaration of the French Ambassador at London:

"The old constellation of the power-

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"January, 1906—Declaration of the French Ambassador at London:

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France has only one enemy in the world, and that is Germany. Let England direct her politics accordingly."

And, following the above:

"October, 1896—The Czar visits Paris."

Attention is called to the January note, which is an excerpt of an article published in 1908. These "Historical Tables" are not therefore a daily or weekly memorandum of current events, but a "defense" compiled systematically years after the noted event occurred.

In 1897 the exchange of visits between the Czar of Russia and the French President is noted:

"August, 23-29, 1897—President Faure visits the Czar at Peterhof. On this occasion both chiefs of state use for the first time the term 'allies' when speaking of their respective countries. Same terms were used the following month when the Czar returned the visit."

In 1898, to show how carefully Germany avoided a slight to America, William II notes:

"Proposition of Lord Salisbury to Germany to participate in anti-American intervention to prevent the Spanish-American War. Proposition is declined by Germany."

At the same time and by contrast the Kaiser does not let the opportunity pass to show what hatred France harbored against Germany, as evidenced by the following note:

"February 1, 1900—At the official reception tendered Deschanel, the future President of France, by the French Academy, Deschanel says: 'Germany is the enemy. It is therefore France's duty to seek a better understanding between Russia and England.'"

The death of Queen Victoria in January, 1901, is keenly felt by William II. He attends the funeral at London, assumes an attitude of great sorrow and grief. King Edward succeeds his mother, becomes King of England and as such inspires mistrust and doubt for the future. From now on events are noted very specifically as concerning France and England.

"May, 1902—The trip of King Edward to Paris and in the following July the visit to London of President Loubet, accompanied by Delcasse, the French Foreign Minister. This visit is the first visit paid to England by a chief of state of France. As a result of the visit, both countries make several agreements, among which a permanent arbitration treaty."

The Kaiser notes that in April of the same year an Anglo-French understanding was reached relative to colonial matters, particularly Morocco.

The situation becomes more difficult, which prompts the ex-Kaiser to jot down the following report of the Belgian Minister at Berlin:

"The old constellation of the power-

Series of Diplomatic Exchanges and Other Incidents, Based on Belgian Reports, Cited to Shift Blame to the Allies

ers is getting out of order and a new one must be found. The campaign of isolation of Germany has proceeded, so far, three results. First, closer relations between England and France. Second, the treaty between England and Japan. Third, the attempt of the English press to convey the impression that the Anglo-Japanese pact is not directed against Russia and therefore should not prevent closer understanding between England and Russia."

Germany and France discuss the Moroccan problem, the French Foreign Minister, Delcasse, resigns and is succeeded by Rouvier as Prime Minister and Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Rouvier accepts the German invitation to a conference on Morocco. Lord of the Admiralty Lee is quoted:

"Should war be declared, the British fleet would strike before Germany would have time to read the declaration of war in the newspapers."

The ex-Kaiser adds that notwithstanding the strained relations with France, England keeps on nursing hatred against Germany.

Kaiser Fearful in 1906 of Franco-British Alliance

The year 1906 begins uncertain and menacing. Great stress is laid by the Kaiser on a so-called understanding between England and France in case of war with Germany.

"The Kaiser further notes that Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, and French Ambassador Cambon have reached an agreement concerning combined military operations in case of a Franco-German war. This is confirmed by the Belgian Minister at London, who reports on January 14 Sir Edward Grey's statement that England and France have assumed mutual obligations in case of a Franco-German war."

All these entries referring to English intervention in case of a Franco-German war are based on so-called secret understandings between Belgium and England, the proofs of which are alleged to have been found by the German troops at the Belgian Foreign Office at Brussels, all of which, however, is contrary to the facts.

What the German troops found in Brussels after ransacking the Belgian Foreign Office was a manuscript report of a conversation between the British military attaché at Brussels, Colonel Barnardiston, and General Ducarne, chief of staff of the Belgian army. The report of this conversation shows that England had promised to send 100,000 British troops to Belgium in case of the neutrality of that country being violated by Germany. The Berlin press, particularly the junker papers, reproduced with flaming headlines this report, but omitted the words "in case of the neutrality of that country being violated," thereby conveying the false impression of English help, regardless of violation of Belgian territory.

In compiling these historical tables the Kaiser was well aware of the fact that the so-called Anglo-Belgian agreement had been made to order by the German press with intent to deceive.

There is no excuse that the ex-Kaiser can give to justify the publication in 1921 of a document which he knew was stripped of its most important phrase and garbled as early as 1906.

The trips of King Edward seem to aggravate the Kaiser's nervousness. After having recorded the voyage to Paris of Edward he registers at length a report of the Belgian Minister to Berlin commenting on the meeting of King Alfonso of Spain and the King of England. This "report" is supplemented by a "report" of his colleague the Belgian Minister to London:

"May 24, 1907—It is evident that official England follows sub rosa a program tending to isolate Germany and thus increase the German personal influence in that direction; but it is indeed very dangerous to poison public opinion, as an irresponsible press so openly does."

The Belgian Minister to Berlin is unquestionably very active and very much concerned with the situation. On the 27th he reports as follows:

"Release, the former Foreign Secretary in France, bows that King Edward has helped him to maintain peace in Europe. The politics which King Edward uses to spread an imaginary German danger is in reality a danger created by France which threatens us Belgians above anybody else."

This unusual activity on the part of the Belgian Minister is thus explained. King Edward Pays Visit To Kaiser, February, 1909

In February, 1909, King Edward pays a visit to the ex-Kaiser. In a heart to heart talk King Edward, speaking to William II, expresses himself as follows:

"I consider ridiculous the excitement of the English press and of English public opinion about the progressive increase of the German fleet. Consent to this increase having been given by a vote of the Reichstag to whom your Majesty has explained the necessity for so doing, it is but only natural that the program so outlined should be adhered to."

The Belgian Minister at Berlin sends in the following "report" on the same day:

"The King of England persists in his statement that he is striving to maintain peace. But this he has always said while he made his efforts to isolate Germany, which he has successfully accomplished. It must be conceded that never has the peace of the world been so endangered as since the King's efforts to consolidate it. (Belgian official Document No. 14.)"

The death of King Edward furnishes the occasion for a truce in the exchange of views. Soon, however, renewed activity is shown by England in the law passed by the British Parliament increasing the home fleet. In the official version the words "directed against Germany" are added.

A special annotation by the ex-Kaiser

deserves more than passing notice. It reads as follows:

"July 13, 1911—The treaty with Japan is renewed for the second time. Note: England is not committed to help Japan (in case of war between Japan and America)."

For this last remark, in parentheses, William II omits to give the source of his information. A few days later the Belgian Minister at Berlin "reports" as follows:

"Everybody in England, as well as in France, sees that the entire cordiality is a defensive and offensive alliance against Germany. This is confirmed by the report of the Russian Ambassador at Paris, who states in his memorandum of December 20, 1911, that England is ready to put not only her fleet but also her entire predatory army at France's disposal against Germany."

The British Secretary of War, Lord Haldane, goes to Berlin with this proposal:

"February 8, 1912—England is willing to commit herself not to make an unprovoked attack on Germany and to desist from aggressive political action against Germany, providing Germany many drops the plan to increase her fleet."

"Germany cannot agree to that and hints at a possible neutrality on the part of England, but, through Sir Edward Grey, declares that a 'strict neutrality' might wound the susceptibilities of France—England further asks that Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg keep his office, as he enjoys the confidence of the British nation. Though no formal agreement is reached, Germany reduces her naval program, while England completes hers in full."

Worthy of particular attention is the note sent by the French Foreign Office to the French Ambassador in Berlin. It must be remembered that the French Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs was Poincaré. The note reads:

"A rapprochement can be possible only by the return of Alsace-Lorraine to France. Were we French to encourage such a reunion we would lose the friendship of both England and Russia and endanger the results obtained through our foreign affairs in the last few years."

French Premier Pays Visit To Russian Court

This note is followed by a personal visit of the French Premier, Poincaré, to the Russian court at St. Petersburg. France promises the Czar that she will adopt the three-year service system in the recruiting and training of her army.

More uneasiness is shown in the various European cabinets, the stage becomes more threatening and the ex-Kaiser's diary more voluminous. Every detail seems to worry William II. The former war lord, perhaps unconsciously, stretches somewhat the truth when he notes that:

"The trip of the French General Staff to Belgium becomes known by the sickness of Major Flandt at Namur."

And as if things were going too smoothly the ex-Kaiser quotes from the German White Book a conversation of King Edward with Sonnino, the Russian Foreign Secretary.

In his negotiations with Russia, the British Foreign Secretary is more specific in his stipulations. In the course of a conversation with the Russian Ambassador at London, Sir Edward Grey is quoted as saying:

"The entrance of England in the war on the side of Russia is subject to these two conditions: 'First France must, by active participation in the war, make of it a general war.'

"Second it is absolutely necessary that the responsibility for the war be laid on the opponent. Consequently, let the aggressive character of the German or Austrian policy have full swing."

Poincaré, of France, does not remain inactive. The ex-Kaiser records the following:

"November, 1912, Poincaré in an interview with the Italian Premier reminds Signor Tittoni that according to the Franco-Italian agreement of 1902 France has the right to count on Italy's neutrality in case of a Franco-German war."

Two months later Poincaré is elected President of the republic and Viviani appointed Premier. Again the Belgian Minister to Paris becomes active and commenting on the Presidential election reports in the following terms his views to the Belgian Foreign Office:

"Mr. Poincaré is a native of Lozère and has no opportunity to let people know it. He was the colonel and the instigator of Mr. Millereand's military policy. Under the latter's military policy, under and chauvinistic elements have been awakened."

It is necessary to dwell upon the fact that the men whom the ex-Kaiser describes are again presiding over the destinies of France, Poincaré as Premier and Millereand as President of the republic?

The Kaiser, notwithstanding the tiding tide, does not neglect to note in his diary these words:

"September, 1913—Agitation in Ulster."

This note needs no explanation. It is one of the cases where "the which is father to the thought." Internal dissensions in England would, of course, weaken her position against Germany and impair her military and perhaps naval forces.

The remaining notes in the diary have been, in part, published in the German White Book.

There is one fact in these notes which dominates all others: the tremendous activity of the Belgian envoys or ministers at Paris, London, Berlin in favor of Germany. The contrast of the heroic little nation struggling against Germany, with the pre-war attitude of its representatives, fanning, as it were, the flames, is past comprehension.

Yet this is the manner in which the Kaiser attempts to purge himself of the accusation that he is responsible for the war.

France's Finance Minister Explains

By Stephane Lauzanne

PARIS, Feb. 18.—"The amount of nonsense that has been uttered regarding the financial situation in France as well as in Germany is one of the most incredible things in the world and it would seem as if those spreading it never looked either at a budget or figure." Count de Lasteyrie, Minister of Finance, who is a born financier, told me.

For a great many years Count de Lasteyrie has been one of the most brilliant inspectors of the French treasury. He has directed several financial establishments. Since the war he has been General Reporter of the Budget. He has grown up and lived among figures which for him have no mystery.

France Faces No Deficiency In Ordinary National Budget

"Tell me something of this nonsense so I may point it out to our American friends," I said to him. The minister began:

"The first nonsense is the statement of deficiency of the French budget. This is gross inaccuracy. The ordinary national budget of France, including all expenditures as well as payments of her enormous war debt, amounts to twenty-five billion francs in round figures. This is about two billion dollars in the present exchange rate. Facing these twenty-five billions in expenditures we have twenty-five

billions in receipts coming from direct and indirect taxes in the liquidation of war stocks. If there were nothing else we would be absolutely safe and our financial situation would be one of the best in the world. But there is something else. There is what is called extraordinary budget recoverable expenses—namely, expenses, which, according to the Versailles Treaty, are expenses for which France should be reimbursed by Germany because they dealt entirely and exclusively with restoration of the devastated regions and payment of war pensions. These expenses for the year 1922 amount to more than twelve billion francs—more than a billion dollars. Since the armistice they exceed eighty billions of francs, more than six billion dollars in the present rate of exchange. On that the German government has not yet paid one cent.

Germany Has Not Paid That Toward Reconstruction

"Up to the present time the German government has only reimbursed the French treasury for a part of the cost of the occupation of the Rhine, and has not paid one single penny of the sum that is owed for the reconstruction of the liberated regions, nor has it made payments of military pensions. It is the French people who have until now rebuilt at their own expense villages that were destroyed by the Kaiser's hordes. It is the French people who until now have entirely paid

the pensions which should have been paid by Germany. That is the truth. That is what is exhausting the nation."

I asked him what was the other nonsense. The minister went on:

"It is also nonsense to pretend that Germany owes her recent lamentable financial condition to the payment of reparations. I've just said we have not received a single cent of reparations and that Germany has paid only about a billion dollars in reimbursement of the costs of occupation, and that cannot have ruined her. But had reparations never existed her ordinary budget would have shown a deficit of seven billion marks in 1919, ten billion in 1920 and twenty-billion in 1921. The cause of this deficit is extremely simple. The German government indulged itself in the maddest freaks of expenditures and the Reich collected taxes imposed in the most unreasonable manner. That is why the German budget shows such a deficit.

Frenchman Pays Four Times As Much Taxes as the German

"Finally, the last nonsense consists in saying and believing that the German taxpayer is crushed by taxes while the French taxpayer pays nothing at all. The figures are there for comparison. France counts thirty-eight million inhabitants for 1921 and she paid 17,815,000,000 francs, this being a tax of 468 francs a head. Germany counted sixty-one million inhabitants in 1921 and she will pay, according to

the most optimistic estimates, sixty billion francs in taxes, this being 983 paper marks a head. At the average exchange of last year those 983 marks represented a value inferior to one hundred francs.

"The French taxpayer, therefore, pays at least four times more taxes than the German taxpayer."

I asked the minister how could "this nonsense" be stopped. He replied:

"By placing one's self face to face with realities. If at the beginning the Allies had imposed a debt commission for Germany, if they had established a receiver with full rights on reserved revenue, customs and mines, all trouble created by the reparations question could have been avoided. To-day a concrete solution must be obtained.

"In order to prevent the so-called bankruptcy of Germany France can't risk her own bankruptcy."

Statistics About Pins

Until the outbreak of the war no less than 90,000,000 pins were manufactured daily. The largest pin factory of the world is in Birmingham. It produces 38,000,000 pins in a single day. As the consumption of pins is not so enormously large there would soon result a great superabundance of them were not 82 per cent demonstrably lost. The remainder get worn out by use. It has been calculated that pins lost in one day represent a value of \$4,500.